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News From Chuck Lesnick Yonkers City Council President

February 17, 2009

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Reval Meeting Tomorrow



Councilwoman Joan Gronowski and I will host a Q&A workshop/public education meeting on the ins and outs of reassessment to create fair market value property taxes from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18 at the Will Library, 1500 Central Park Ave., Yonkers.

A second session will be held from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Monday, March 2 at the Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers.

We are holding these seminars both for our residents who may have questions and want to learn about reval and for Westchester municipal officials to take back to their communities.

Our hope is to better represent you should this become a consideration in Yonkers and/or on a county level. You may wish to read an editorial in today's Journal News on the subject by linking [here](#).

Both workshops will be facilitated by the [NYS Office of Real Property Services](#) (ORPS), and the Yonkers Tax Assessor's

office.

Shovel Ready Projects Awaiting Stimulus



New York Gov. David A. Paterson's office today identified more than 1,900 "shovel-ready" projects throughout New York State awaiting word of federal stimulus dollar allocations. Of those, more than 200 are in the Lower Hudson Valley. The list is interesting. You can check it out by clicking [here](#).

A Call for Volunteers!

Do you play an instrument? Is your job interesting enough to talk about? Have you traveled to a faraway land? Do you have an extra hour a week to become a mentor?

If so, Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) wants to hear from you. The non-profit education enhancement organization is currently



establishing a wonderful volunteer enrichment program to improve the lives of our school children.

In just under two years, YPIE has successfully launched YonkersReads! and Family Story Power, in addition to providing SAT tutoring for more than 400 students and opening two College Centers with a third on the way.

Contact Marie Rama, Volunteer Coordinator at mrma@ypie.org for more information or call the YPIE office at (914) 377-4882.

Community Police Meeting



The 4th police precinct will hold its monthly Community Council meeting from 7-8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 19 in the second floor meeting room at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, on the corner of Dock and River Streets. Anyone who lives or works in the area they serve is invited. Captain Intervallo, who was recently named precinct commander, will be available for private meetings about urgent matters.

For more information, email [here](#).

Be a Better Recycler

Join Sustainable Hastings for a tour of Yonkers state of the art recycling center off the NYS Thruway by Stew Leonard's on Tuesday, March 3 at 10 a.m.

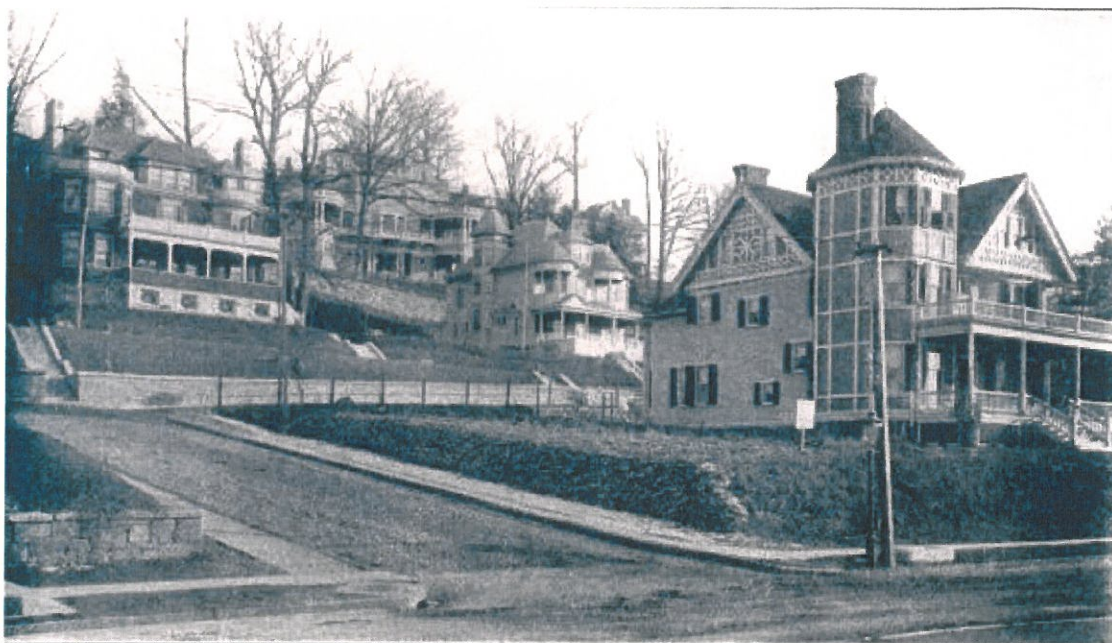
Learn why recycling is good for the planet and what really and truly is recyclable (no, not pizza boxes and waxy milk cartons.)

Please RSVP to Haven Colgate at hcolgate@yahoo.com. Carpooling can be arranged.

You can check out more green news by clicking [here](#) on the County's website.



All Victorian, All The Time



Shonnard Terrace, from Warburton Avenue

What do you get when you give a local history buff like Yonkers own Bob Piwinski a bit of downtime and a computer keyboard?

The answer is a gorgeous website dedicated to the Victorian period and architecture of Yonkers as seen through a significant collection of early Yonkers photographs and images that he sourced from out-of-print books, early photo albums, pamphlets, postcards, advertisements, stereoview cards, maps, and more.

It's a site even the hairiest Neanderthal would enjoy, as there is no knocking the history of our great city even though you may see flowered wallpaper and lace doilies in a few places. We're talking solid and detailed architecture with craftsmanship that has since gone the way of the horse and buggy.

"I've also found there is a lot of renewed historical interest in this city," said Bob Piwinski. "There really isn't very much on the Internet that does a good job of showcasing the city we live in today in earlier times. Photographs provide a window back in time, and combined with first hand accounts where available, tell an amazing story of this simpler time."

The site also showcases current examples of home restoration and even a "Then and Now" comparison of houses and streets today vs. 100+ years ago.

Go ahead and click [here](#) to see the site, or visit www.victoriansource.com.

Please Help Me



The Council is poised to create a special account for contributions toward building a new, state-of-the-art animal shelter in Yonkers for dogs (and cats) like these who need a temporary place to call home.

The city's current shelter, at 120 Fullerton Avenue, was built almost 50 years ago when people were focused on animal control and shelters were regarded as temporary holding facilities for animals that were picked up off the streets.

Dogs and cats were generally held for a short period of time and if not claimed by an owner, they were often euthanized. Since adoption was not a goal of the shelter, the original building was not set up to be a comfortable and healthy facility for the animals or to show them off to potential new owners.

The current Yonkers Animal Shelter is literally a crumbling, antiquated facility that is too small, at a maximum capacity of 140 animals, for a city the size of Yonkers. Sometimes healthy, adoptable animals must be put down to make room for the constant flow of homeless pets that arrive daily from Yonkers and nearby towns. Although the staff does its best to keep the shelter clean, the cages are cramped and the surroundings are depressing. There is no grassy area for the dogs to exercise. The cat rooms are small, with cages piled on top of one another. In this unappealing setting, it's easy to see why many people who might want to adopt a pet simply stay away.

Modern shelters now focus on adoption as a primary goal, and comfortable, humane living conditions for the animals are emphasized. There is ample room for dogs to exercise and cats are often housed in group settings without cages in which they can play and socialize. Improving the living conditions of shelter animals is not only more humane but also better for their mental well-being. As a result, these homeless pets remain healthy and adoptable.

The new Yonkers animal shelter will stand in stark contrast to the existing facility. It will be nearly double the size at 14,000 sq. ft., feature an expanded kennel area with room for 50% more animals, include modern medical and exercise areas, and contain inviting public spaces that will showcase the animals for adoption.

But only with your help. Please give by calling the Yonkers Department of Parks on 289 Nepperhan Ave. at (914) 377-6450.

GPTF Meeting



There will be a Green Policy Task Force Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18 in room 403 at City Hall.

The agenda includes:

1. Opening Comments
2. Discussion of on the use of biofuels with Dan Falcone of Total Fuel

3. Discussion of Earth Week

Events

4. Committee Reports a. Energy/ Green Building - LEED
- b. Recycling - Recycling in School
- c. Land Use - Artificial Turf
- d. Transportation - Bus Grant

County Idling Ordinance Meeting

The Greenburgh Nature Center will host a public forum focused on Westchester County's recent enactment of a local law restricting engine idling on Tuesday, February 24th, beginning at 7 p.m. This program is free and open to the general public.

The moderator for the no-idling forum will be the Honorable Thomas J. Abinanti, County Legislator and Chair of the Committee on Environment & Energy at the Board of Legislators. Panelists include:

- Student representatives from Edgemont Environmental Club, Irvington High School, and the Scarsdale Public Schools
- Douglas Carter, Coordinator of SW BOCES Transportation Consortium
- Joseph "Bud" Nicoletti, Jr., P.E., Commissioner of Public Works, City of White Plains
- Jessica Horne, Outreach Associate, Clean Air NY
- Richard L. Stiller, Director of Operations, Westchester County Dept. of Transportation Bee-Line Bus System
- Sergeant Christopher Perrotta, Yonkers Police Department, Traffic Division

After brief presentations by the panelists of their organization's efforts to support the County's Anti-Idling legislation and preserve air quality in Westchester, the floor will open for questions and discussion.

Organizers partnering with the Greenburgh Nature Center are Charles Davey of the Tarrytown Environmental Advisory Counsel (TEAC) and the Greenburgh Environmental Forum and Molly Roffman of the Yonkers Green Policy Task Force.

The Greenburgh Nature Center is 33-acre nature preserve with trails, pond, orchard, and gardens. The Center contains a live animal museum, exhibit areas on nature and the environment, a greenhouse, and gift shop. The Center is located at 99 Dromore Road, off Central Park Avenue, in Scarsdale, NY. Parking is free, and handicapped parking is available. The center's grounds are open daily dawn to dusk throughout the year. The Center's indoor exhibits are open daily except Fridays and a few holidays, 9:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on weekends.

For further information, call (914) 723-3470 or visit the [website](http://www.greenburghnaturecenter.org) www.greenburghnaturecenter.org.



Edited by Laura Fahrenthold

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